Spring 2010

During the Spring 2010 semester cohort 1 participants took a course in Inquiry and action research. Teachers had the opportunity to discuss questions they have about student misconceptions and common errors their students were making in their classes. In time, each teacher was able to identify one specific question they could study in depth. They found articles related to their inquiry and devised plans to do their own action research project. At the end of the semester each teacher either individually or in a small group will submit a paper and take part in a poster session describing their work.

2nd Annual MTTI Conference

The day started with a delayed breakfast followed by opening remarks by Carl Curiale, Director MTTI Program

Conference attendees had a choice of three topics for the first workshop session.

Anne Walsh, Director, Bronx Center for Teaching Innovations at Lehman College

Topic: Transition Algebra Course for 11th grade students.

Description- The high school course described was modeled after a college course taught at Lehman College. The pretest, exams and textbook that are used were reviewed.

Eva Y. Chan, Co-President of the New York City Interscholastic Math League

Japheth Wood, Mathematics Faculty, Bard MAT Program NY Math Circle

Topic: How To Run a Math Team

Description- This presentation explained how to start and finance a math team, and recruit students. Preparation required for both coaches and students was reviewed, and the benefits of successful math teams to students and schools was discussed.

Judy Levine, Project Director MSPinnyc at Hunter College

Topic: The PERC Model-The Peer Enabled Restructured Classroom

Description- A research based model of a high school classroom that uses peer teaching assistants in Regents math and science classes was discussed. How the peer assistants are chosen, prepared and used in these classes was explained and then data on the effectiveness of this model was shared.
The conference attendees then had a choice of three additional workshops for the second workshop session.

**Courtney Ferrell**, Teacher, Bronx Theatre HS  
**Topic:** May I Have Some Pi Dough and a Large Container of Coffee?  
**Description:** This workshop modeled activities that lead to a greater understanding of pi as the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. Play dough and cardboard were used to ‘discover’ the formulas for circumference, area of a circle, volume of a sphere. While these activities are probably more suited to a middle school classroom, they can certainly be used as review (or fun!) activities on the high school level.

**Ayano Kindaichi**, Math Coach, IS181 Pablo Casals  
**Topic:** Data-licious  
**Description:** Data is a powerful tool, but can seem overwhelming. Strategies of making data meaningful were examined. Topics covered ranged from sources of data, to analyzing results and exploring next steps.

**Celia Cruz**, teacher, New Day Academy  
**Topic:** A Model for Conceptual Understanding  
**Description:** After participants solved and shared their solutions to a problem, the Concept Attainment Strategy (CAS) was introduced and explained. Participants then worked in small groups to apply the CAS to an activity that focused on triangles and their properties. The group then came together to debrief their experiences and discussed how to use this in our classes.

The conference attendees reconvened in the East Dining Room for panel discussion - Pathways to Teacher Leadership

**Panelists**  
**Yasmin Aquino**, Mathematics Teacher Consultant for the New York City Mathematics Project (NYCMP)  
**Ronald Schwarz**, High School Math Specialist, NYCDOE  
**Sonia Menendez**, moderator, District 10 Superintendent  
**Geraldine Ambrosio**, Principal, DeWitt Clinton HS  
**Rajendra Dyal**, Assistant Principal of Mathematics, High School for Health Careers and Science

A question and answer period was followed by lunch.